

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR
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INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 3281

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PVIP, PGOV, SG, US
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT SENGHOR'S VISIT

REF: STATE 110018

1. WITH RESPECT TO POSSIBLE OMVS CHIEFS OF STATE VISIT TO OTTAWA, CANADIAN AMBASSADOR INFORMS ME THIS IS STILL BEING NEGOTIATED. RESPONSE TO INITIAL SUGGESTION FOR VISIT WAS UNENTHUSIASTIC, OTTAWA SAID THAT PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU IS LIKELY TO CALL ELECTION FOR JUNE, WHICH MEANS THAT HE WOULD BE BUSY CAMPAIGNING FROM MID-MAY ONWARD. BUT IF OMVS CHIEFS OF STATE DECIDED VISIT COULD NOT BE POSTPONED, THEY SHOULD COME ANYWAY WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT TRUDEAU WOULD BE AVAILABLE ONLY FOR MINIMAL AMOUNT OF TIME. BALL IS NOW IN OMVS COURT. CANADIAN AMBASSADOR ASSELIN, WHO IS ACCREDITED TO ALL THREE COUNTRIES WITH RESIDENCE IN DAKAR, INFORMS ME THAT HE WILL TRY TO PERSUADE SENGHOR TO VISIT OTTAWA BEFORE HE GOES TO THE U.S., AND TO COME ALONE.

2. ASSUMING THAT SENGHOR GOES TO OTTAWA BEFORE HE VISITS THE U.S., AND MAINTAINS JUNE 2 AS ARRIVAL DATE, I BELIEVE PROGRAM OUTLINED PARAGRAPH FOUR REFTEL LOOKS
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FINE, BUT WITH FOLLOWING CAVEATS.
A. TO BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, CITIBANK CHAIRMAN WRISTON'S LUNCH FOR SENGHOR IN NEW YORK IS STILL SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 7. IF THIS CANNOT BE MOVED UP ONE DAY TO JUNE 6, THEN IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR SENGHOR TO DO MUCH MORE IN WASHINGTON ON JUNE 7 THAN TO ARRIVE AND SPEND THE NIGHT. I CAN THEREFORE UNDERSTAND COULBARY'S INTEREST IN HAVING

SENGHOR SPEND TWO NIGHTS AT BLAIR HOUSE, JUNE 7 AND 8. THIS WOULD ENABLE HIM TO DEVOTE ALL OR PART OF JUNE 9 TO WASHINGTON ACTIVITIES. I WOULD NOT RECOMMEND THAT CITIBANK LUNCH BE CANCELLED BECAUSE THE BANK AND SENEGAL NEED A GOOD RELATIONSHIP RIGHT NOW IN ORDER TO AGREE ON THE APPROPRIATE DISBURSEMENT OF THE RECENT \$60 MILLION DEVELOPMENT LOAN. B. PROGRAM SHOULD CONTAIN A NEGRITUDE ELEMENT. ALTHOUGH POETRY READING, AS WELL AS FOUNDATION DINNER WITH ALEX HALEY AS GUEST SPEAKER WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE RELATED, I WOULD LIKE TO SEE AN EVENT DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO THE BLACK DIASPORA. ONE POSSIBILITY WOULD BE A VISIT TO CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK'S BLACK STUDIES DEPARTMENT TO MEET WITH A SMALL GROUP OF FACULTY AND STUDENTS. CHAIRMAN LEONARD JEFFRIES INDICATED TO ME DURING A RECENT AMSPEC VISIT THAT HE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ORGANIZING SOMETHING OF THIS SORT.

C. SENGHOR ALSO LIKES TO BE INVOLVED WITH IMPORTANT NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES. HE HAS SUFFICIENT INTERNATIONAL PRESTIGE, I BELIEVE, TO RATE A LUNCHEON MEETING WITH THE EDITORIAL BOARD OF THE NEW YORK TIMES. COULD SOMEONE EXPLORE THAT POSSIBILITY INFORMALLY?

3. IN THE EVENT CANADA VISIT DOES NOT PAN OUT AND SENGHOR DECIDES TO ARRIVE DURING MAY 30-JUNE 1 TIMEFRAME, VISIT TO US SOUTHWEST MIGHT BE INTERESTING TO SENGHOR. FRANKLY, I AM NOT SURE WHAT HIS REACTION WOULD BE TO THE SUGGESTION. CONFIDENTIAL

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HE MAY BE TIRED FROM MANY ACTIVITIES IN EUROPE, AND I DO KNOW THAT HE IS VERY COST CONSCIOUS THESE DAYS BECAUSE OF THE VERY LARGE PEANUT CROP DEFICIT. BUT IF HE DOES DECIDE TO ARRIVE EARLIER, I WILL BE HAPPY TO MAKE THE SUGGESTION AND SEE WHAT HE SAYS.

4. SINCE WHITE HOUSE MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR ONE HOUR INCLUDING TIME FOR INTERPRETING, WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE FOR SECRETARY TO HAVE WORKING LUNCH WITH SENGHOR TO ALLOW TIME FOR FULLEST EXCHANGE OF VIEWS? COHEN

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